

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A venous cannula comprising:

an elongated flexible body member having a tubular wall defining a bore therein and having an intake end and a discharge end;

a tip portion formed at said intake end and having a plurality of radial openings formed in said wall;

a rigid helical support element embedded in said tubular wall and extending from said discharge end of said elongated body member to said tip portion; and

a cage member fixed to the exterior of said intake end ~~portion~~ having a plurality of longitudinally stringers and a plurality of annular rings attached to said plurality of stringers, said cage member being disposed so that all of said ~~intake apertures~~ plurality of openings in said tip portion are covered by said cage member and remain open to the flow of blood.

2. (Currently amended) The venous cannula of claim 1 wherein ~~said rings and said stringers are of relatively stiff materials~~ relative to said body member.

3. (Currently amended) The venous cannula of claim 1 wherein said plurality of stringers are on ~~the~~ an outer surface of said tip portion.

4. (Currently amended) The venous cannula of claim 1 wherein said plurality of stringers and said plurality of rings are in a common cylindrical plane.

5. (Currently amended) The venous cannula of claim 1 wherein said plurality of stringers are on the an outer surface of said plurality of rings ~~except said rings at the opposite ends of said cage, said stringers and said rings at opposite ends of said cage being in a common cylindrical plane.~~

6. (Currently amended) The venous cannula of claim 1 wherein additional set of apertures is formed in spaced relation to said tip portion and wherein an additional cage member having rings and stringers is disposed to cover ~~said a~~ second set of radial openings.

7. (Currently amended) The venous cannula of claim 6 ~~wherein claim 6~~ wherein said stringers of said additional cage members are on the an outer surface of said tubular wall.

8. (Currently amended) The venous cannula of claim 6 wherein said ~~rings and~~ stringers of said additional cage members are ~~of relatively stiff materials~~ relative to said body member.

9. (Original) The venous cannula of claim 6 wherein said stringers and said rings are in a common cylindrical plane.

10. (Canceled)

11. (New) The venous cannula of claim 1 wherein said plurality of stringers are uniformly and circumferentially spaced in direct contact with said tubular wall.